

Service Date: January 31, 1992

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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| IN THE MATTER Of the Application |) | |
| Of BLACK HILLS CORPORATION d/b/a |) | UTILITY DIVISION |
| BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT CO., |) | DOCKET NO. 91.12.60 |
| For Authority to Increase Their |) | DEFAULT ORDER NO. 5606 |
| Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider. |) | |
| _____ |) | |

On December 23, 1991, Black Hills Corporation d/b/a Black Hills Power and Light Company (BHP&L or Applicant) filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission pursuant to Sections 69-3-101 et seq., MCA, for an order authorizing the Applicant to increase its electric rates in order to reflect the increased cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of September, October and November, 1991.

On January 2, 1992, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity For Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated, "If, however, no hearing is requested by January 27, 1992, the Commission will consider the matter and a default order may be issued."

Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by the Applicant in support of its application and deeming itself fully advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. If increased fuel costs for the months of September, October and November, are to be recovered, a charge of \$.00627 must be added to the base fuel cost of \$.01240 approved in Docket No. 83.4.25, which results in a total fuel charge of \$.01867 per KWH. The Quarterly Fuel Rate

Rider will increase revenues by approximately \$31,019 above fuel costs authorized in Docket No. 83.4.25.

2. The number of customers presently being served in Montana is 58.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceeding in this matter.
2. The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of February, March and April, 1992 is \$.00627 per KWH. This charge shall be added to the base fuel cost approved in Docket No. 83.4.25.
2. The approved rates shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after February 1, 1992.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana on 27th, day of January, 1992 by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Chairman

DANNY OBERG, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

WALLACE W. "WALLY" MERCER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Peck
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.